

[10th December 1923]

ARMS ACT.

Issue of licences for firearms in Kurnool.

2 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Kurnool has issued orders that no licences for firearms will be granted from next year to the inhabitants of Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks in the Kurnool district;

(2) if so, were the Government informed of the proposal of the Collector, and have they agreed to the proposal; or were the orders issued on his own initiative and without consulting the Government; and

(3) what the necessity was for an order prohibiting wholesale the issue of licences in two taluks?

A.—(1) Yes.

(2) & (3) The District Magistrate has discretion with regard to the issue of licences with which the Government do not propose to interfere. His action is due to the increasing practice of using bombs for the commission of crimes in connexion with party feuds in the two taluks mentioned.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“May I ask whether as a matter of fact the Government were informed of the proposals of the Collector of Kurnool before he actually passed these orders and whether he had their consent?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“In a general report about the troubles in the two taluks, the District Magistrate has informed us that he proposes to refuse renewal of licences or applications for fresh licence at the end of the current year.”

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI:—“May I know, Sir, whether he has used his discretion properly?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I do not know, Sir, whether you wish me to answer a hypothetical question of that kind.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—“I wish to know if this method has put an end to the use of bombs.”

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI:—“I wish to know how many offences were committed by the use of fire-arms.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—“I want notice of that question.”

FORESTS.

Hirehal forest reserves, Bellary.

3 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(i) to state—

(a) when Hirehal A and B forest reserves of Bellary range were handed over to forest panchayats for management;

(b) the average income from them to the Government during the three previous years under the heads of (i) grazing fees, (ii) compounding fees and fines and (iii) miscellaneous revenue;